

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 OES-07 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-10
NRC-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01 H-02 L-03 DODE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:R.F.OBER,JR:DIW
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:D.KUX
NEA/P:R.UNDELAND

-----280546Z 106930 /14

P 280119Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 123935

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF EXCHANGE ON TARAPUR AT
DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING MAY 27:

2. Q. HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DECISION
TO SHIP TO INDIA THE ENRICHED URANIUM?

A. YES. THERE IS NO DECISION MADE TO SHIP IT YET. THE
AMBASSADOR, NEWLY ARRIVED AMBASSADOR GOHEEN, WILL BE
DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH INDIAN LEADERS AND A DECISION
WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. I THINK HE MET WITH HIM TODAY.

A. YES, HE DID. HE PRESENTED HIMSELF TO THEM TODAY.
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BUT WHAT I MEAN IS, I THINK THERE ARE A SERIES OF
DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY WHICH GO BEYOND THE
FORMALITY OF HIS ARRIVAL.

Q. HOW WAS THE DECISION REACHED?

A. THE SUBJECT IS PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE

TALKING ABOUT AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT IT
HERE. (...)

Q. ARE YOU SAYING GOHEEN IS GOING TO NEGOTIATE
CONDITIONS WITH THE INDIANS?

A. HE IS GOING TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF MATTERS RELATING
TO THE QUESTION OF OUR SHIPPING THE MATERIAL.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONDITIONS?

A. AND WE WILL GET A BETTER SENSE OF WHERE WE ARE
WITH THE INDIANS AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. WELL, IS HE GOING TO BE SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON THE
WAY IN WHICH INDIA WOULD HANDLE THE MATERIAL OR WHAT
THEY WOULD DO WITH IT? WHAT IS HE DISCUSSING?

A. I THINK THAT YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT WHAT HE MAY BE TALKING TO THEM ABOUT. BUT, THERE
ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES.

Q. BUT YOU ARE SAYING IT IS INCORRECT, THE REPORT WAS
INCORRECT, THAT A DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO
GO AHEAD AND SHIP IT?

A. THAT IS CORRECT. THIS IS RIGHT. IT WAS INCORRECT.

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Q. AND WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM GOHEEN BEFORE A
DECISION IS TAKEN?

A. THAT WILL BE AT LEAST A FACTOR IN OUR DECISION.

Q. HODDING, IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WHOLE
DECISION WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION.

A. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BASIC DECISION STILL
HAS TO BE A WHITE HOUSE DECISION.

Q. WHAT IS THE NRC DECIDING ON?

A. I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE AT THIS POINT THE BASIC POLICY
DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AT THE WHITE HOUSE LEVEL.

VANCE

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